

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-13 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit adapted to ~~associate with each other, and to store,~~ store a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested ~~that the~~ search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain from ~~said~~ the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by ~~said~~ the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by ~~said~~ the searching unit with the device list obtained by ~~said~~ the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search by ~~said~~ the searching unit but not present in the device list obtained by ~~said~~ the obtaining

unit, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by ~~said~~ the forming unit to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit adapted to ~~associate with each other, and to store,~~ store a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested ~~that the~~ search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain from, ~~said~~ the storage unit, the stored device list (~~if any~~) associated with the identification information received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by ~~said~~ the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by ~~said~~ the searching unit with the device list obtained by ~~said~~ the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search by ~~said~~ the searching unit of which the state has been changed, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by ~~said~~ the forming unit to ~~said~~ the data processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the device list formed by ~~said~~ the forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by ~~said~~ the forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 5. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by ~~said~~ the forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A method comprising:

a storage step of ~~associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit,~~ storing a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being

associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which~~ that requested ~~that~~ the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (~~if any~~) associated with the identification information received in ~~said~~ the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in ~~said~~ the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of ~~said~~ the searching step with the device list obtained in ~~said~~ the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search ~~said~~ the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in ~~said~~ the obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in ~~said~~ the data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in ~~said the~~ forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A method comprising:

a storage step of ~~associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit,~~ storing a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested ~~that the~~ search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by ~~said the~~ receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in ~~said the~~ receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in ~~said the~~ searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of ~~said the~~ searching step with the device list obtained in ~~said the~~ obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search ~~said the~~ searching step of which the state has been changed, and forming a new device list

in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 10. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a storage step of ~~associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit,~~ storing a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested ~~that~~ the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list ~~(if any)~~ associated with the identification information received in ~~said~~ the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in ~~said~~ the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of ~~said~~ the searching step with the device list obtained in ~~said~~ the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search ~~said~~ the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in ~~said~~ the obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a storage step of ~~associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, storing~~ a device list indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested ~~that~~ the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices,  
and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from  
the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the  
search request received by ~~said~~ the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (~~if any~~)  
associated with the identification information received in ~~said~~ the receiving step, the obtained  
device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in  
~~said~~ the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of ~~said~~ the searching step with the  
device list obtained in ~~said~~ the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new  
search ~~said~~ the searching step of which the state has been changed, and forming a new device list  
in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the  
new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in ~~said~~ the forming  
step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 14. (canceled).



Claim 15. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled).

Claim 17. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.